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**JAN 13 2006**

#21

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Serial No.: 09/866,897 Confirmation No. 5586  
Applicant: Leighton et al.  
Filed: May 29, 2001  
Art Unit: 2157  
Examiner: El Chanti, Hussein A.  
For: **GLOBAL LOAD BALANCING ACROSS MIRRORED DATA CENTERS**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

This amendment is filed together with a Request for Continued Examination under Rule

114. In addition, this amendment responds to the office action mailed July 13, 2005.

Reconsideration and favorable action are requested, for the reasons set forth below.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claim 3, and please amend claims 1-2, 4, 7 and 12-14 as set forth below.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.